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Retrospect

News from the Louise Pettus Archives and Special Collections at Winthrop University

September 2019

Volume 15, Number 3



Manuscript Collection Spotlight

By Andrew Johnston, Asst. Dir. of Archives and Special Collections

A Soldier Stands Alone



Thomas J. Johnston

The Louise Pettus Archives has close to a hundred diaries and reminiscences from soldiers that participated in the American Civil War. There are countless more letters to and from soldiers to family and friends back home. One constant among these first person accounts is that almost all are written by soldiers fighting on the Confederate side with most being natives of South Carolina. Of course, this makes perfect sense with the Pettus Archives location being in the heart of what was the Confederate States of America and the state that witnessed the first shots of the conflict. However one first person account of the American Civil War stands alone. The Pettus Archives has only one collection that represents the experiences of a Union Soldier. The [Thomas Jefferson Johnston Collection](#) - Accession 1217 M582 (635) contains the original diary and an annotated typescript copy of the diary of Union Soldier Thomas Jefferson Johnston (1837-1894) who fought for the Union Army in Company C, 11th Regiment Iowa Infantry, Belknap's Iowa Brigade, XVII Corps, Army of the Tennessee during the American Civil War. He fought in the battles at Shiloh,

Vicksburg, and the burning of Atlanta on the Union side during General Sherman's "March to the Sea." Johnston fell ill before the Army of the Tennessee made its way to South Carolina and therefore, did not participate in the burning of South Carolina, so perhaps the Confederate Soldiers that now surround him in the collection don't judge him too harshly!



Thomas Belue

If you are interested in reading and researching the lives and thoughts of the soldiers that fought in the Civil War, the Pettus Archives has scores of collections that may be of interest.

Listed below are just a handful of collections that contain Confederate Soldiers' first person accounts of the American Civil War (and *one* Union Soldier).

- [Thomas Belue Collection](#) - Accession 35 - M11 (21)
- [Memoirs of James Augustus McDonald Carraway](#) - Accession 731 - M336 (388)
- [McConnell Family Papers](#) - Accession 340
- [William Joseph Miller Civil War Reminiscence](#) - Accession 41 - M16 (26)
- [Civil War Diary of Captain I.N. Chamberlin](#) - Accession 458 - M190 (232)
- [Civil War Remembrances "Dark Days of the Confederacy"](#) - Accession 1094 - M503 (553)
- [James Alexander Milling Civil War Reminiscence](#) - Accession 877 - M395 (446)
- [Private John Noel Cummings Letters](#) - Accession 613
- [Civil War Letter](#) - Accession 558 - M244 (292)
- [William Wilson Mills Letters](#) - Accession 580
- [Thomas Jefferson Johnston Collection](#) - Accession 1217 M582 (635)



Quote of the Quarter

Caroline Howard Gilman [1794-1888] was an American author whose career spanned 70 years and includes poems, novels, and essays. Gilman was born in Boston, Massachusetts. She received very little formal education but began writing at an early age.



In 1819 she married Rev. Samuel Gilman a Unitarian minister and they moved to Charleston, S.C.

From 1832 to 1839, Gilman edited *The Rose Bud* one of the first children's magazines in America. She said of her career, "I find myself, then, at nearly sixty years of age somewhat of a patriarch in the line of American female authors." From her poem "My Garden":

My quiet little garden!—I hear the rolling wheel
Of the city's busy multitude along the highway peal,
I tread thy paths more fondly, and inhale the circling air
That glads and cools me on its way from that wide mart of care.

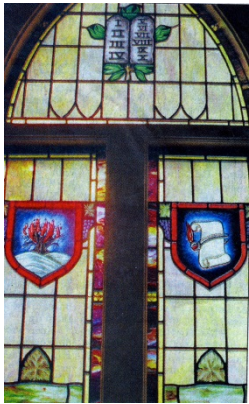
For more information concerning the *Quote of the Quarter* please contact Gina White at (803) 323-2334 or whitegp@winthrop.edu.



Louise Pettus Papers

By Carson Cope, Processing Archivist, Louise Pettus Papers

Great news! The Louise Pettus Papers are completely processed and are now available for research. Do your interests include local history? If so, the Pettus Papers contain information on a wide variety of people, places, and events that have shaped the Catawba Region. Local church history is one subject for which there is an interesting set of materials pertaining to a variety of churches of varying denominations. For example, Ms. Pettus' research covers Six Mile Presbyterian Church, Bel Air United Methodist Church, Providence Presbyterian Church, Van Wyck Presbyterian Church, and Flint Hill Baptist Church just to name a few. Information on these churches is presented in an assortment of formats such as written letters, newspaper articles, histories, photographs, chronologies, church records, and publications. There are three boxes containing approximately 1500 pages of information concerning local church history. In addition, Ms. Pettus wrote numerous articles concerning local church history that are available in the collection as well. She wrote articles concerning Bethesda Presbyterian Church, Ebenezer Road Presbyterian Church, and Flint Hill Baptist Church among others. If church history is among your research topics, please drop by and take a look at this section of the collection along with any other section of the collection that interests you!



To view the Pettus Papers finding aid click here: [Pettus Finding Aid](#)

For more information on the Louise Pettus Papers contact Carson Cope at archives@winthrop.edu or (803) 323-2334



Martha Bray Carson, The author of the "Salute to the Flag of South Carolina"

by Scott Coleman, Class of 1984, guest columnist

I was asked to write about one of my favorite hidden treasures of South Carolina, [Martha Bray Carson](#) from Chester, SC, the author of the Salute to the Flag of South Carolina. What, you ask? You didn't even know our state flag had a pledge? We do! Mrs. Carson wrote the pledge in 1950 and it was adopted by the 1966 S.C. General Assembly.

"Salute to the Flag of South Carolina"

"I salute the flag of South Carolina and pledge to the Palmetto State love, loyalty and faith."

I also have an interest in Mrs. Carson because my family and I live and are restoring her Victorian home in Chester. The previous owner's son said, as we were looking to purchase the house, "Mama said some lady historian used to live here who wrote something important." A few years later when I was reading a pamphlet in the S.C. Statehouse, I thought about the pledge again. Right there on page A-16 was a listing for the Salute to the Flag written by Mrs. John Raymond Carson of Chester. This must be the lady historian who used to live in our home on West End. I remember I was excited and couldn't wait to obtain more information on Mrs. Carson, but where?



I first sought information from the Louise Pettus Archives and Special Collections at Winthrop University. They were able to provide me with a copy of Mrs. Carson's September 1953 obituary; a copy of her mother Annie Peay Bray's September, 1927 obituary; and a copy of an undated Herald newspaper article of a U.D.C. convention at Winthrop College which featured Mrs. Carson leading the salute to the S.C. flag.

For a several years I could find no additional information about Mrs. Carson. However, I was fortunate to obtain a photograph of her from a Newberry, S.C. friend. A few years later I was browsing in the York County Library's main branch in Rock Hill, and to my delight, discovered several vertical files that included my home address. As I continued to peruse these files, I stumbled onto the "Martha Bray Carson Memorial Collection" and one of the files had the title, "Reason for Writing Salute to the South Carolina Flag". I

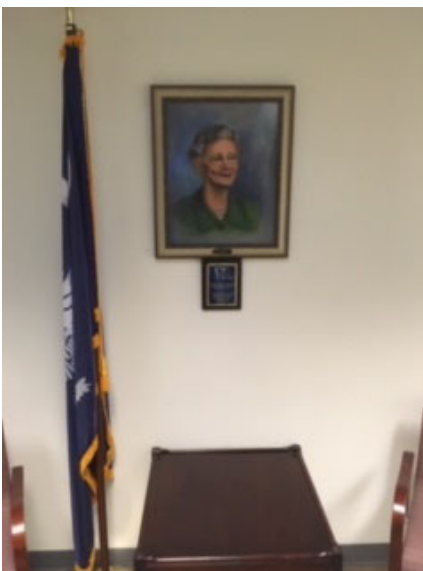
was overjoyed.

There was correspondence from state officials but more importantly were the words of Mrs. Carson on the reason why she wrote the Salute to the South Carolina Flag.

"For a number of years, I have sat on a platform, or in an audience in patriotic meetings, where flags were standing. The United States received the Pledge of Allegiance, which was as should be. The flag of that particular meeting had a salute given it, while our beautiful South Carolina Flag received no attention, it was standing there, that was all! So, it became an obsession with me that it should have a salute – other state flags had – and ours was the oldest of them all and had more history than any of them."

Sadly, Mrs. Carson died the next year on September 17, 1953 and did not get to see her S.C. Flag Pledge officially adopted by the S. C. General Assembly in 1966.

I wanted to have a portrait of Mrs. Carson displayed in a prominent place. I asked friend and local Chester artist Lois Hall to paint a portrait of Mrs. Carson from the photograph. Mrs. Hall did an excellent job! We requested Mrs. Carson's portrait be displayed in the S.C. Statehouse, but were denied because there is currently a moratorium on accepting new portraits or statues for the Capitol Building. My next choice was the Chester County Government Complex where, a few months ago, I presented Mrs. Carson's portrait to the Chester County Council who readily accepted it and placed it on display in the building's central hallway with a S.C. Flag. There is also an accompanying plaque on which Mrs. Carson's Salute to the Flag of S.C. is engraved.





Rare Book Collection Spotlight

By Gina Price White, Dir. of Archives and Special Collections

An Oration, Delivered Before the Two Societies of the South-Carolina College on the Fourth of December, 1849



An Oration, Delivered Before the Two Societies of the South-Carolina College on the Fourth of December, 1849, is a speech by James Henry Hammond discussing history, Francis Bacon, and other philosophers and statesmen. The speech includes some of Hammond's pro-slavery views. The volume was printed by the Steam-Power Press of Walker and James at No. 101 East Bay, Charleston in 1850. The Euphradian Society of the South Carolina College (now USC) appointed a committee to request permission and have published Hammond's speech. The committee wrote Hammond to seek his consent just 3 days after his address on December 7, 1849. Hammond replied with his approval and thanks on December 17, 1849.

James Henry Hammond [1807-1864] was an attorney, politician, and planter from South Carolina. He served as a United States Representative 1835-1836, was Governor of South Carolina 1842-1844 and United States Senator 1857-1860. He was known as an outspoken defender of slavery before the American Civil War. He popularized the phrase "Cotton is king" in his March 4, 1858 speech before the US Senate. He ultimately owned 22 square miles of property and more than 300 slaves. Dr. Carol Bleser edited Hammond's diaries in the 1980s and published them under the title *Secret and Sacred: the Diaries of James Henry Hammond, a Southern Slaveholder* in 1988.

Winthrop purchased the printed oration on May 10, 1949 from Gittman & Gittman Bookshop in Columbia, S.C. for \$3.50.

The oration in its entirety may be read via Pettus Archives' Digital Commons page:

<https://digitalcommons.winthrop.edu/rarebooks/83/>

For more information on the Rare Book Collection, contact Gina White, Director of Archives and Special Collections at (803) 323-2334 or archives@winthrop.edu.

A Century Ago...



From the April 1, 1919 issue of *The Chester News*:

Who First?

Both Great Britain and the United States are industrially engaged in grooming the airships for "first flights" across the Atlantic and it is manifest that the one is undertaking to keep the other as much as possible in the dark on matter of preparations. Great Britain has put a line of airplanes at work mapping out a weather route and is arranging to make flights from St. Johns. A press dispatch from

Washington a few days ago ventured some advance information as to the assembling of a crew for the American plane and the inauguration of preliminaries for the flight—and then the airplane new bureau shut up like a clam. All the public know definitely at this time is that the two Nations are working with all possible energy to get in first on the proposition and the interesting question under discussion is which airplane—the British or the American—will be first to fly across the ocean? The plans of each country are being so well guarded that it is a good possibility the people will know nothing until news comes of the actual start on the flight of either a British or and American machine. We would be sport enough to put our money on the Yank.

To view the entire issue of *The Chester News* April 1, 1919, [click here](#)



News Flash from the Past

By Gina Price White, Dir. of Archives and Special Collections

In the early part of the 20th century, Rock Hill had a street car that ran down Oakland Avenue. The original one was pulled on a track by mules. Later, the city had an electric street car system. Occasionally, there were mishaps and adventures with the mule powered car as this article from the June 7, 1907 *Lantern* (Chester, S.C.) reprinted from the Rock Hill Herald illustrates.

The Street Car Runs Away



When the motorman on one of the street cars started to tighten the brakes on his car when it started down the grade about opposite the residence of J. G. Anderson on Oakland Avenue last Friday afternoon, the chain or some part of the brake broke and the car started down the grade at a high and rapidly increasing rate of speed. “Lec” and “Tric” [the mules pulling the street car] had to strike a gallop to keep out of the way of the car. The driver jumped from the platform intending to swing on the other end of the car and apply the brake on the rear platform, but the car was making faster time than he had reckoned on and he was landed in the street head foremost and was unable to overtake the run-a-way

car when he had pulled himself together again. The car was filled with passengers, among whom were nine or ten Winthrop girls, and Mr. R. A. Beall, the only male person on board. None of them, however, saw the performances of the driver and when the car began to rock and bounce down the grade, they looked out and saw the driver missing and the two mules appeared to be running a race with each other. Mr. Beall grabbed the lines and checked up the mules but the car ran up on their heels and they dashed off again. There was a regular panic among the passengers for a few minutes but Mr. Beall managed to keep the mules on the track until the car reached the foot of the slope and started up another grade and were brought under control again—Rock Hill Herald.

To view the entire June 7, 1907 issue of *The Lantern*, [click here](#).



For more information on the Winthrop newspaper files in the Archives contact Gina Price White, Dir. of Archives at (803) 323-2334 or archives@winthrop.edu.

From the [Johnsonian, September 21, 1929](#)



“The modern girl is no doubt a flirt, but frequently she can’t find anything worth flirting with.”



New Collection Spotlight

By Kaitlin Burdette, Archivist

Football season is here!! And just in time, the Louise Pettus Archives has received a wonderful donation of vintage Rock Hill High School Bearcat football programs. These programs are gems, highlighting Rock Hill Bearcat football seasons from 1943 to 1949. Inside the programs, you can find complete rosters for each team, highlighted player articles, sponsors, schedules, player statistics, and the cheerleading roster. We even have an athletic letter to match! If you are interested, here is a peek:



For more information on this collection or other collections in the Louise Pettus Archives, please contact us or take a look at our website ((803) 323-2334 or archives@winthrop.edu). Thank you for reading.



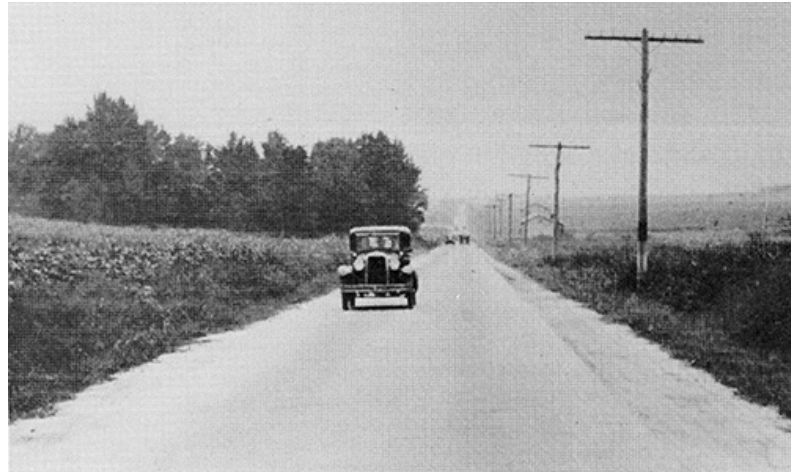
Photographs of the Quarter

By Brittany S. Pigford, Archivist

James Milton Cherry and Cherry Road



Cherry Road ca 1911



Cherry Road ca late 1920s

James Milton Cherry [1856-1920] was a businessman, real estate developer, city councilman and a mayor of Rock Hill [1890-1891]. He arrived in Rock Hill in 1872 as a young clerk for L. M. Davis. In 1878, Cherry served in the city's volunteer fire company. Between the 1880s and the early 1900s Cherry's achievements were numerous. He was a partner in the Rock Hill Buggy Company, served in city government, helped found a bank, and was one of the founders of the Rock Hill Light and Power Company and the Rock Hill Telephone Company just to name a few of his accomplishments. What most of you probably know him for is his road. If you live in or near Rock Hill you might have noticed the recent construction on parts of Cherry Road but did you know that Cherry Road was one of the first paved roads in the country? It was paved in the 1920s as a federal project to pave roads due to the popularity of the automobile. First known as Mr. Cherry's road, the paving was paid for by the county, the state and Mr. Cherry himself. It was originally a foot thick layer of concrete over a rock bed. It was widened in 1929, 1956 and 1975. So the next time you are driving on one of Rock Hill's most used roads remember the history beneath you.



J. M. Cherry and B. M. Fewell ca early 1900s



Winthrop and Cherry Road (on right) 1978



By Gina Price White, Director of Archives

Hurricane Hugo September 22, 1989



September 22, 2019 marks the 30th anniversary of the day Hurricane Hugo wreaked havoc on the state of South Carolina. Prior to 1989, Up Country citizens of South Carolina did not think a hurricane would do much more than spawn heavy rain and slightly higher than normal wind speeds. However, that fateful day forever altered the views of Catawba Region residents concerning the effects of a hurricane so far inland. Winthrop was hit pretty hard but because of the wonderful efforts of the Facilities Management crew and other Winthrop staff and faculty members, the college was only completely closed for one full day.

Pettus Archives has two interviews available on Digital Commons that covers how the hurricane affected the Winthrop campus and the students, faculty, and staff.



Dr. Frank Ardaiole was Vice President for Student Life from 1989 until he retired in 2018. Student Daniel Lee interviewed Dr. Ardaiole on March 9, 2015 about his experiences during the natural disaster. The entire interview is available as well as an index to subjects covered in the interview. You may view the index and listen to the interview here:

<https://digitalcommons.winthrop.edu/oralhistoryprogram/259/>.



Dr. Anthony DiGiorgio was President of Winthrop from 1989 until his retirement in 2013. Student Daniel Lee interviewed Dr. DiGiorgio on February 20, 2015 about the hurricane, damage to the campus, and Dr. DiGiorgio's experience during and after the storm. You may view the index and listen to the interview here: <https://digitalcommons.winthrop.edu/oralhistoryprogram/256/>.



If you would like to learn more about Hurricane Hugo or the oral history collection, visit our [Digital Commons](#) site or contact the Archives staff at (803) 323-2334 or archives@winthrop.edu.



Current Exhibitions

Carson Cope, Processing Archivist

[When the Past Meets the Present: The Businesses That Shaped Rock Hill](#)

The Pettus Archives has created an exhibit highlighting a multitude of businesses that once served the Rock Hill community primarily between 1920 and 1960. It even showcases a few businesses that are still in operation today. From familiar businesses like The Rock Hill Coca-Cola Bottling Company to unfamiliar businesses like The Farmer's Blacksmith Shop, visitors will be surprised and delighted to see the diverse services Rock Hill businesses have offered over the years. Viewers can expect to see a wide variety of artifacts in this exhibit including advertisements for local businesses, colorful advertisements illustrating products once sold by these businesses, and actual products sold by these businesses such as soda bottles, food product containers, etc. There is also a display of artifacts highlighting Winthrop University and its role in the Rock Hill community. The exhibit will be available for viewing during business hours from September 3 through December 13 and on Saturday, November 16, 9:00 to 3:30.



For more information, contact the Pettus Archives at (803) 323-2334 or archives@winthrop.edu.



Collegiate Contemplations

By Gina Price White, Dir., Archives and Special Collections

Theodora Taylor (Class of 1924) was a Junior majoring in education when she wrote the following poem for the October, 1922 edition of *The Winthrop Journal*, the college's literary magazine.



Morn

A breathless hush,
A golden glow,
A lovely light, yet dim,
A sudden rush
Of clouds like snow,
The sun's red glinting rim.

An errant breeze
Among the trees,
The leaves with sunlight torn,
The sweet caress
Of a sunbeam's breath
To herald that it's morn!

For information on the Archives' collections and holdings, how to donate historical material, or how you can help, contact:

Louise Pettus Archives and Special Collections

Telephone: (803) 323-2334

E-Mail: archives@winthrop.edu Website: <http://libguides.library.winthrop.edu/archives/home>

Click here for previous issues of [Retrospect](#)